

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application. New claims 5-8 have been added to further define the invention. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Drawings

The Examiner asserts that Fig. 10 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. Accordingly, filed herewith is a proposed drawing correction wherein Fig. 10 is labeled as --Prior Art--. The changes are shown in red ink.

Additionally, the Examiner objects to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4) because the reference character "8" has been used to designate both a gear and a motor accommodating section. In response, Applicant has amended the specification to correct erroneous reference numerals, whereby numeral 8 designates only a motor accommodating section, 6 designates only gears, and 4 designates only a pickup driving mechanism.

Specification

The Examiner requests a new title of the invention, wherein the title is more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, the title of the invention has been amended in a manner believed to meet the Examiner's request.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 2-4 under §112, 2nd paragraph, as indefinite.

Specifically, the Examiner noted that "the end portion" in claims 2-4 lacks antecedent basis. Applicant has amended "the end portion" in claim 2 to read --an end portion-- so as to set this element forth for the first time. The claims have not been narrowed by this amendment, which is believed to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

Additionally, the Examiner noted that the "motor drive" in claims 2 and 3 lacks antecedent basis. Applicant has amended "the motor drive shaft" in claim 2 to read --a drive shaft of the motor-- so as to set forth this element for the first time. Additionally, Applicant has

amended claim 3 so as to depend on claim 2—not on claim 1—wherein the drive shaft of the motor has been set forth. Therefore, “said motor drive shaft” has proper antecedent basis in claim 3. These amendments have not narrowed the claims, merely redefined some of the terminology to express elements that were already set forth.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 3,676,725 to Wiser et al. (hereinafter Wiser). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because Wiser fails to anticipate Applicant’s claims.

Claim 1 sets forth a motor supporting device that includes, *inter alia*, a motor accommodating section, a gear holding section, and a covering section, wherein the covering section is monolithically formed with the motor accommodating section and flatly covers the gear holding section. See Figs. 1, 2, 5, and 7. Because the covering section is monolithically formed—i.e., is one piece—with the motor accommodating section, the total number of components is reduced so that assembling operation is improved.

In contrast to that in claim 1, Wiser discloses a motor accommodating section 14, and a separately formed covering section 18. Indeed, the covering section 18 must be separately formed from the shell 16 (which, together with shell 18 makes up housing 14) so as to form the plurality of stator poles 16’ and 18’. Therefore, Wiser does not teach or suggest a covering section that is monolithically formed with a motor accommodating section.

For the above reasons, claim 1 is not anticipated by Wiser. Dependent claim 4 is, likewise, not anticipated by Wiser.

Claim 2 sets forth a motor supporting device that includes, *inter alia*, a motor accommodating section, a gear holding section, and a covering section, wherein the covering section comprises a side pressing section that abuts to an end portion of the gear provided to a drive shaft of the motor. Because the covering section comprises a side pressing section that abuts to an end portion of the gear provided to a drive shaft of the motor, the motor supporting device suppresses the noise of the gear.

For example, as shown in Figs. 1 and 5, one embodiment of the invention includes a motor accommodating portion 8, a gear holding section 9, and a covering section 10, wherein the covering section 10 includes a side pressing section 17 that abuts to an end portion of a gear 6 provided to the motor drive shaft.

The Examiner asserts that Wisner includes a side pressing portion 180 (added by the Examiner) that is a part of the shell 18. However, in contrast to that set forth in claim 1, and to that asserted by the Examiner, no part of Wisner's shell 18 abuts the end of the shaft means 36 or the pinion 46 disposed on the shaft means 36. Instead, it is the bottom plate 40 and the support member 44 that abut opposite ends of the shaft means 36.¹ Therefore, Wisner does not disclose a covering section as defined in claim 2.

Thus, for the above reasons, claim 2 is not anticipated by Wisner. Likewise, dependent claim 3 is not anticipated by Wisner.

Conclusion

New claims 5-8 have been added to further define the invention. These claims should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to the claims from which they depend.

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

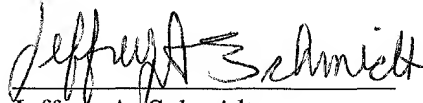
¹ Wisner at col. 2, lines 43-46.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
US Appln. 09/554,670

Atty. Docket: Q59136

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Schmidt", written over a horizontal line.

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE:

The title has been changed as follows:

Motor Supporting Device Having a Covering Section

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification has been changed as follows:

On page 6, the first full paragraph has been changed as follows:

In these figures, reference numeral 1 denotes a base, 2 denotes a spindle motor for rotating an optical disk, 3 denotes a pickup, 4 denotes a pickup driving mechanism for positioning the pickup 3, and is driven by a driving force transmitted from a gear [8] 6 later-explained. Further, reference numeral 5 denotes a sled motor (motor) that functions as a driving source of the pickup driving mechanism 4, whose drive shaft is provided with a gear 6 through which the drive shaft is threaded by a pressing force.

On page 8, the second full paragraph has been changed as follows:

As shown in Figs. 6 to 8, when the sled motor 5 is activated, the driving force thereof is transmitted to the pickup driving mechanism [6] 4 by way of the gears 13, 14 and 15 in a sequential manner, so that the pickup 3 is activated.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A motor supporting device comprising:
a motor accommodating section for accommodating and holding a motor therein, and
a gear holding section that rotatably holds a gear for externally transmitting a driving force of said motor,

wherein said motor supporting device further comprises a covering section, which is [integrally] monolithically formed with said motor accommodating section and flatly covers said gear holding section.

2. (Amended) A motor supporting device [according to claim 1,] comprising:
a motor accommodating section for accommodating and holding a motor therein, and
a gear holding section that rotatably holds a gear for externally transmitting a driving
force of said motor,

wherein said motor supporting device further comprises a covering section, which is
integrally formed with said motor accommodating section and flatly covers said gear holding
section,

wherein said covering section [is bendably formed with respect to said motor accommodating section, and] comprises a side pressing section that abuts to [the] an end portion of said gear provided to [the motor] a drive shaft of the motor.

3. (Amended) A motor supporting device according to claim [1] 2 further comprising a fitting section for fixing said covering section to said motor accommodating section, with said side-pressing section being abutted to the end portion of said gear mounted to said motor drive shaft, said fitting section being provided to at least either one of said covering section and said motor accommodating section.

Claims 5-8 have been added as new claims.